

Mary Birnbaum

Mirror

One moment seemed
light might
charge from the mirror
in the eclipsing room.

As if a mirror could
bottle daylight
and image imprint
from reflected image, dream.

Not so. The mirror breathes
with us, can't stop
aborted exhale. A mirror pleads
like us, the clean

flat side polished
for judgment:
the other, oxygen hunger,
light hunger, thin metal dust.

Mary Birnbaum was born, raised, and educated in New York City. She has studied poetry at the Joiner Institute in UMass, Boston. Mary's translation of the Haitian poet Felix Morisseau-Leroy has been published in the *Massachusetts Review*, the anthology *Into English* (Graywolf Press), and will be in the 60 year anniversary anthology of the *Massachusetts Review* as well. Her work is forthcoming or has recently appeared in *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Ibbetson Street*, *I-70 Review*, *J Journal*, and *Nixes Mate Review*.